Electrification of Villages in Rajasthan

494. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of electrification of villages under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in Rajasthan and what set back/damage has been caused by flood havoc in Rajasthan;

(b) whether all the villages in the State will be lighted up by 2009, the year fixed by the Centre for covering all the villages in the country under electrification; and

(c) if so the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Rajasthan Government has reported electrification of 466 unelectrified villages and release of 3669 rural household connections, including 1186 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) as on 17th November, 2006. Recent floods in August, 2006, in parts of Rajasthan has reportedly not caused any damage to the works except that it has delayed execution of works under RGGVY by nearly six weeks.

(b) All the un-electrified villages in the country including in Rajasthan are envisaged to be electrified under RGGVY by 2009. RGGVY integrates actions to be taken by Government of India, State Governments, Power Utilities and implementing agencies so as to attain the national goal of creation of electricity infrastructure in the rural areas for households electrification by 2009.

(c) Rajasthan Government has so far submitted 41 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) covering electrification of 822 unelectrified villages, re-electrification of 3655 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 34842 already electrified villages in 32 districts of the State under RGGVY, involving an outlay of Rs. 1033.25 crore. 27 DPRs covering electrification of 734 un-electrified villages, re-electrification of 1040 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 16237 already electrified villages in 26 districts of Rajasthan, involving an outlay of Rs. 480.92 crore have since

been sanctioned. In addition to the above, 12 other projects have been given 'in-principle' approval.

Revamp of electricity distribution system

495. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revamp the electricity distribution system, under which the city Transco would manage the load and maintain transformers, Discoms would provide the supply from the pole and the consumer would be able to choose his Discom; and

(b) if so, the details of the new system and how far it would end up in giving relief to the consumer against exploitation and over billing?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, a transmission licensee is required to build, maintain and operate an efficient, co-ordinated and economical inter-State transmission system or intra-State transmission system, as the case may be, and to provide non-discriminatory open access to its transmission system.

Under the Act, a transmission licensee has been debarred from engaging in the business of trading of electricity.

Supply of electricity to consumers is the function of the distribution licensee who is, in his area of license, duty bound to supply electricity to all consumers who apply for the same. The Act also provides for phased introduction of open access in distribution by the State Electricity Regulatory Commssions (SERCs). It provides that the SERC shall, not later than 27th January, 2009, by regulations, provide such open access to all consumers who require a supply of elctricity where the maximum power to be made available at any time exceeds one megawatt. These consumers would have the option to choose his supplier other than the distribution licensee of his area.

The Tariff Policy notified by Central Government provides that in whichever states the situation so permits, the Regulatory Commissions should introduce open access even prior to this deadline. The policy also lays down the methodology for computation of cross subsidy surcharge.